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LETTER DATED 19 OCTOBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a communiqué on the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo issued by the heads of State of the three East African States of Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda, following their meeting in Nairobi on 18 October 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Njuguna M. MAHUGU, OGW
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Communiqué of the East African Cooperation Consultative Summit of heads of State on the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. At the invitation of Daniel T. Arap Moi, President of Kenya, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of Uganda, and William Benjamin Mkapa, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, attended the East African Cooperation Consultative Summit on the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Nairobi on 18 October 1998.

2. The Summit noted with grave concern the escalation of the conflict, which has taken a wider dimension threatening to engulf the whole region, including the East Africa subregion.

3. Observing that the crisis was impacting negatively on the region, and precipitating an influx of refugees into neighbouring ccuntries, the displacement of populations, threats of genocide and a decline in trade and investments, the Summit underscored the urgent need to address the situation.

4. The Summit reaffirmed the unity and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in accordance with the principles of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Charter of the United Nations.

5. The Summit also reaffirmed the need to address the genuine security concerns of the countries neighbouring the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

6. The Summit examined all options for speeding up a resolution to the Democratic Republic of the Congo crisis and called for:

(a) Immediate cessation of hostilities;

(b) Immediate negotiation of a ceasefire agreement and a troop standstill;

(c) Taking of measures to address the security concerns of neighbouring countries;

(d) Security for marginalized groups;

(e) Orderly withdrawal of all foreign troops;

(f) Initiation of an all-inclusive political dialogue;

(g) Emplacement of a neutral international peacekeeping force under the auspices of OAU and the United Nations.

7. The Summit resolved that urgent measures would be taken to facilitate the implementation of these decisions. In this regard, the heads of State mandated their ministers in charge of foreign affairs, regional cooperation and defence to undertake a follow-up of the decisions.

8. The East African Cooperation member States expressed their deep concern regarding the maintenance of peace and security in the region. In this regard, they agreed to support efforts already under way by Southern African Development Community (SADC) member States in consultation with OAU and the United Nations.

9. The heads of State visited the site of the bomb blast of 7 August 1998 and laid wreaths in remembrance of all those who had lost their lives in the terrorist attack. The Summit condemned all acts of terrorism and called for concerted efforts to combat and eradicate terrorism in all its forms.

10. Presidents Museveni and Mkapa expressed their appreciation to their host, President Moi, the Government and the people of Kenya for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to them during their stay in Kenya.